Period: Date: Name:

**Outdoor Observation #2 – Observing the Lunar Phases**

**Abstract:** The Moon is the most interesting object to observe in the sky because it requires no equipment and its appearance and location change every day. For this activity, you will observe the Moon **2-3 times per week, for 3-4 weeks**, recording information about the Moon during each observation.

**The Observations:** For each observation of the moon you will need to do the following:

* Sketch the moon as it appears in the sky and identify the phase.
* Record the location (from where you made the observation), date, and time (including a.m. or p.m.) of observation.
* Note where the Moon appears in the sky. For example: “just above the horizon” or high in the western sky” or “low in the southern sky” or more specifically: “20° above the eastern horizon” (take your fist at arm’s length as 5°, your finger as 1°, and 2 hands as 10°)
* If the Moon is near the horizon, note if it is rising or setting. (The Moon will rise in the eastern sky and set in the west like the Sun).
* Note the weather conditions. (partly cloudy, overcast, strong wind gusts, snow, clear, etc.)

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| **Sample Lunar Phase Observation** |
| **Location:** Panther Playground, Quakertown, PA  **Date:** February 18, 2010  **Time:** 11:00 a.m.  **Phase:** Waning Gibbous  **Where:** Rising about 20° above eastern horizon  **Weather:** Cold and clear |

\*You should end up with 6 – 12 observations, recorded in a neat fashion as shown above. You may type up your observations (if your penmanship is poor, I encourage this!) or work out of a small composition book, writing tablet, journal or diary type book.

**Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**